

Jamie sat in the porch swing. It was the 4th of July. Jamie and her family were going to a family reunion. Jamie did not know at first what a family reunion was. Jamie's mom had explained all about a family reunion. She had said that a family reunion was when all of the cousins, aunts, and uncles in the family got together. Members of the family would come from miles around for the family reunion. This family reunion would be in a park. "There will be lots of food to eat and games to play," said Jamie's mom.

Jamie's mom came out onto the porch. "Jamie, we're ready to go," she said. Jamie got up from the porch swing with a sigh. She did not want to go to the family reunion. She did not know any of her relatives because they all lived out of town. She felt scared about meeting all of these new people.

Jamie climbed into the back seat behind her parents. Off they drove to the Big Rock State Park. They drove through the countryside. They admired all of the pretty flowers and fields around them. At last they reached the Big Rock State Park. Jamie's dad pulled up in front of the big stone gates to the park. "Well, here we are," he said, as the car swung down the dirt road.

Jamie saw a big crowd of people standing around several wooden picnic tables. As Jamie's dad parked the car, Jamie stared at the crowd of people. She saw very old people and couples with little babies. She saw people who were her parents' age. They had young kids her age running around them.

Jamie climbed out of the car. Jamie's mom began to introduce her to all of her aunts, uncles, and cousins. Jamie relaxed as she met her family. She did not feel scared anymore. The aunts, uncles, and

cousins she met were very nice to her. Jamie found that she had lots of boy and girl cousins close to her age. They all got together and played kickball. They played hide and go seek. They skipped rocks across the lake at the park. When it was time for lunch, Jamie and her cousins ate lots of fried chicken. They spit watermelon seeds at each other. They raced to see who could eat the most peach pie.

At last, it was time for Jamie and her parents to go home. Jamie climbed back into the car. She waved at her cousins from the window as they drove off. She was tired from playing and eating all day.

"Mom," Jamie said, "I really had a fun time. I really like my cousins." With that, Jamie fell asleep in the back seat.

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